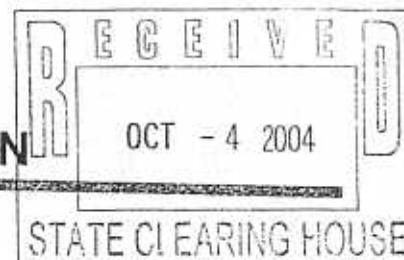


## NOTICE OF PREPARATION



To:  
OPR / State Clearinghouse  
1400 Tenth Street, Suite 222  
Sacramento, California 95814

From:  
San Diego County Department of Parks & Recreation  
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite P  
San Diego, California 92123

### SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

The San Diego County Department of Parks and Recreation will be the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) for the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park Trails and Enhancement Project (Proposed Project).

We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information, which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connections with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project. The project description, location, and list potential environmental effects are included in this Notice of Preparation (NOP).

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Please send your response to the NOP to the attention of:

Maeve Hanley, Environmental Resource Manager  
San Diego County Department of Parks and Recreation  
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite P  
San Diego, California 92123  
(858) 694-2968 (Telephone)  
(858) 495-5841 (Facsimile)

PROJECT TITLE: TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL PARK TRAILS AND  
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

PROJECT APPLICANT: SAN DIEGO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND  
RECREATION

Date: September 28, 2004

Signature: 

Title: Renee Bahr, Director

Telephone: (858) 695-2968



## PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The County of San Diego (County) is proposing to implement a Trails and Habitat Enhancement Project (Proposed Project) in the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park. The Proposed Project is intended to refine and permit a network of multi-use recreational trails, which will facilitate recreational access and allow for the rehabilitation of degraded natural habitats within the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park. The Proposed Project includes the following specific components:

- Creation of a formally designated multi-use recreational trail network;
- Habitat creation and restoration of approximately 60-acres including wetland, riparian and upland habitats;
- Installation of a steel-truss recreational bridge crossing over the Tijuana River;
- Interpretive/directional signage and benches at key areas;
- Bird observation blinds and trail fencing;
- Eastern trailhead staging area consisting of 2-acres along Dairy Mart Road; and,
- Creation of a park management plan to guide the long-term development and management of uses and resources within the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park.

Currently, there is no recreational trail network permitted through the California Environmental Quality Act in the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park (TRVRP). The Proposed Project would utilize selected portions of existing dirt roads and pathways and includes realignments, enhancements and closures where haphazard and unplanned development of trails has resulted in habitat degradation, deterioration of the quality of natural resources, and declining recreational user experience in the TRVRP. Minimal new trails and trail linkages would be developed as part of the Proposed Project.

Exhibits 1 and 2 depict the regional and local project setting. Exhibits 3 and 4 depict the various project elements as listed above.

## PROJECT LOCATION:

The Proposed Project is located in the County of San Diego's Tijuana River Valley Regional Park located in the City of San Diego (Exhibits 1 and 2) in the southwestern portion of San Diego County. The TRVRP is generally bounded on the east by Dairy Mart Road (except for a portion of the Dairy Mart Ponds that extend further east), the Tijuana River Estuary on the west, the US / Mexico international border on the south and Sunset Avenue and the residential community to the north.

The TRVRP consists of a total of 1,800 acres of which 1,638 acres are owned by the County. The other landowners in the TRVRP include the City of San Diego and the California Department of Fish and Game. The TRVRP is bisected from north to south by the east-west flowing Tijuana River originating in Mexico and draining to the Pacific Ocean through the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve located west of the TRVRP.



## **POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:**

Based on a preliminary assessment of potential environmental effects associated with implementation of the Proposed Project, the following issues are anticipated to be further analyzed in the EIR:

- Aesthetics / Visual Resources
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology / Soils
- Hydrology / Drainage / Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Public Health and Safety / Hazardous Materials
- Public Services and Utilities
- Transportation / Circulation

These issues, along with an analysis of project alternatives, cumulative impacts and potential for growth inducement, will be discussed in the EIR for the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park Trails and Habitat Enhancement Project.

## **PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING:**

Consistent with Section 21083.9(a)(2) of CEQA, a public scoping meeting will be held to solicit comments on scope and content of the EIR. This meeting will be held on:

**Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004**  
**Cafeteria - Southwest High School**  
**1685 Hollister Street**  
**San Diego, California 92154**

The Public Scoping meeting agenda is as follows:

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. | Presentation on Project Description and CEQA process |
| 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. | Public Comments at Information Stations              |

For additional information, please contact Maeve Hanley at 858-694-2968